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The Spirit of Social Work. By EDWARD T. DEVINE. (New York: Charities Publication Committee. 1912. Pp. xi, 230. \$1.00.)

The Spirit of Social Work consists of a series of addresses upon various aspects of social reform, delivered during the past six years by Dr. Edward T. Devine. The subjects of these addresses cover a wide field, including substantial value of woman suffrage, the conservation of human life, certain aspects of the problem of crime and the police, the improvement of tenement houses, the religious treatment of poverty, and the dominant note in modern philanthropy. They were delivered usually before popular audiences, and were intended to arouse their hearers, not merely to understand modern social evils, but to fight against them. The subjects have been handled with lucidity, with vigor, with largeness of spirit, with a thorough understanding of practical conditions, and with an equally thorough philosophical grasp of the principles underlying the better modern philanthropy. Dr. Devine's definition of the dominant idea in these discourses is "a determination to seek out and to strike effectively at these organized forces of evil, at those particular causes of dependence and intolerable living conditions which are beyond the control of individuals whom they injure and whom they too often destroy"; and this quotation may stand as the keynote of the book.

HERBERT CROLY.

Social Pathology. By SAMUEL GEORGE SMITH. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1911. Pp. viii, 380. \$2.00.)

Defining social pathology as "a study of social defeats," this book takes up in a brief but lucid manner the chief problems of the abnormal classes in America. Dr. Smith's point of approach is that of the experienced practical worker in social amelioration, but he has not ignored the important background of theory. Three fundamental principles are set forth in the preface: that both society and the individual are dominated by psychical influences; that the importance of the individual depends on social efficiency; and that the study of degeneration should be begun earlier in the career of the individual than it generally is, because it should deal with causation rather than with symptoms. Whatever the importance of heredity, Dr. Smith maintains that social environment is the primary factor to be studied in dealing with social failures,

since the chief problems of the individual are usually settled for him before he is fourteen.

The book places salutary emphasis on the principle that poverty is a relative term. It is even more elastic as a term than is standard of living. "Whether a man has a comfortable bed depends quite as much upon the man as it does upon the bed." Normality also is to be construed as a thing to be measured by group standards. Fitness for survival depends not on abstract moral worth but upon practical adaptation to the time and place in which the individual is placed.

The chief subject matter of the book falls into four divisions: Pathology of Condition (poverty), Pathology of Conduct (crime), Pathology of Mind, and Pathology of the Senses. The brief initial chapter of the first division on the Art of Living is particularly fruitful. Dr. Smith believes that thrift and economy should not be left wholly to individual choice, and holds that "a wise paternalism is the wisdom of the modern world."

A serious objection may be raised to the inclusion of so many problems within the scope of the book that several of them are little more than mentioned. Thus one chapter of twenty pages is made to cover the subjects of drunkenness, suicide, immigration, dissolution of the family, illegitimacy, and prostitution. The term social pathology is, in practical usage, gradually narrowing down to include those subjects which Dr. Smith has so ably treated in the first four divisions of his book. The same objection may be made to the chapter on Social Therapeutics, unless, indeed, the chapter on Eugenics be taken as supplementing it. To the claims of the new science, Dr. Smith accords only a limited recognition. Two fundamental difficulties with it are that the active elimination of the unfit would crush out the gentler virtues and make society cruel, and that we know and are likely to know too little of the laws of heredity to be able to predict what marriages would produce the most efficient offspring.

The book is well adapted for class use and is one of the best available for the general student of social problems. There is a compact bibliography and a carefully selected set of statistical tables bearing on social conditions in Europe and America.

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